



JOB CORPS'

# R&R Field Report

Aiding in America's Recovery and Reinvesting in Our Future



ARRA E-Newsletter Volume 20

## From the National Office of Job Corps

Dear Job Corps Staff,

The construction of the Ottumwa Job Corps Center, featured in this issue of the R&R Field Report, is a great example of how Job Corps is utilizing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to make short- and long-term impacts on the communities where our centers are located. The new center is providing a major boost to the local community with more than 100 construction jobs created for local workers and the availability of more than 100 permanent positions once the center is open.

Through improvements to facilities and training programs, ARRA-funded projects are also helping Job Corps become a better steward to our students and to the environment.

At the Albuquerque Job Corps Center, Welding and Facilities Maintenance students are learning new green landscaping and construction techniques by building a bridge and retaining pond that will reduce the center's water usage. Automotive and Machine Repair students at Edison Job Corps Center are knowledgeable about energy-efficiency and alternative fuel sources as a result of training on hybrid cars. These green training opportunities are helping students understand the value of environmental practices in their daily activities and in their future careers.

As many of the ARRA projects begin to wrap up, it is more important than ever that we receive success stories and photos of projects in progress and at completion. Please continue to share your photos and any other project information with us by e-mailing them to [oic.arra@dol.gov](mailto:oic.arra@dol.gov), or submitting them online at [www.greensnap.org](http://www.greensnap.org).

Sincerely,

Edna Primrose  
National Director



## New Ottumwa Job Corps Center Boasts Green Building Design and New Jobs for Local Area

The construction of the new Job Corps center in Ottumwa, Iowa, has had a tremendous economic impact on the local community. The \$24 million project is creating jobs for residents in two capacities – through the 135 jobs for the

## Edison Automotive Training Students Are Charging Their Hybrid Repair Skills



Automotive student Victor Vargas inspects the battery on the center's hybrid training vehicle.

When it comes to hybrid cars, the Automotive and Machine Repair students at the Edison Job Corps Center can tell you the difference between full-hybrid and base-hybrid vehicles, as they gain experience working with automotive batteries.

"Base-hybrids don't use a full generator, but rather a 36-volt battery, to power accessories in the car like air conditioning, the radio, and lights in the car," said Victor Vargas, Automotive and Machine Repair student at the Edison Job Corps Center. "Full-hybrid vehicles use the battery to move the entire vehicle, allowing the car to run on a battery up to 18 mph before the gas-fueled engine kicks in."

Partnering with the United Automobile Workers of America (UAW) Labor Employment and Training Corporation, Edison students are learning how to maintain and replace batteries on the hybrid vehicles, along with regularly checking the multiple cells in each battery.

construction of the facility, and the 130 permanent staff positions needed to operate the center when it opens next year. With the Ottumwa unemployment rate currently at eight percent, this project is vital to the growth of the city's economy.



"Because of the construction of the Ottumwa Job Corps Center, we've been able to keep people employed who otherwise would have been laid off," said Grant Grooms of Grooms & Co. Construction. "We were even able to hire additional workers for the project."

The impact of the new center on the local economy is substantial, but just as important are the green design elements of the building, which are expected to yield up to \$250,000 in utility rebates. The LEED-based design has eight buildings, including student dormitories, academic buildings, administration buildings, a student recreation center/gymnasium, and much more.

Green aspects of the buildings include geothermal heating, energy-efficient lighting in all buildings, roof and wall insulation systems, and low-flow plumbing fixtures. In addition, construction staff are recycling materials on-site and using an online submittal exchange program, which tracks the progression of the project through a paperless system.

Once completed, the center will house approximately 300 students and offer career training in advanced manufacturing, information technology, heavy equipment operations, and health care. Students will study green practices and train on the latest green technology and equipment. Ottumwa students who meet certain criteria will also have the opportunity to participate in a partnership with nearby Indian Hills Community College to advance their education and training in certain areas.

To hear from community leaders on how Job Corps' Recovery Act funds are impacting the city of Ottumwa, click [here](#).

To hear from local contractors on the project, click [here](#).

To view additional photos of the Ottumwa Job Corps Center, click [here](#).



**... 98 ... 99 ... 100% Outlaid!**

**Congratulations to the following centers which have outlaid 100 percent of their ARRA funds. Keep up the good work!**



Should one cell fail, students are required to replace the entire battery properly in order for the car to continue running.

When working with high-voltage batteries, it is essential that students learn the importance of following proper equipment procedures as well. As much of the work surrounding the hybrid vehicles involves electrical equipment, students are required to inspect protective gear like the zero-approved, or double zero-approved, linemen gloves for puncture holes or rips.

To see photos of Edison students at work on the center's ARRA-funded hybrid cars, click [here](#).

To see a video, click [here](#).

### **Building Bridges at the Albuquerque Job Corps Center**



An Albuquerque Welding student helps with the center's xeriscape project by assisting in the construction of a bridge that will be used to collect rain water from a retaining pond.

Welding and Facilities Maintenance students at the Albuquerque Job Corps Center converted a poorly landscaped area on campus into a sustainable source of water, known as a xeriscape, by constructing a retaining pond and building a bridge from recycled metal.

Facilities Maintenance students identified an area on center that, due to poor irrigation, could not be landscaped. To bring life to this particular area of campus, the students built a retaining pond on the site to collect rainwater. All water from the pond is then used for



irrigating the center's organic garden located nearby, eliminating the need to water the garden on a regular basis.

This project also gave the center's Welding students the opportunity to apply their skills in green construction and learn different techniques for reusing existing materials. Working with Welding instructor Jesse Ramos to complete the project, students recycled steel and metal from other training projects in order to build a bridge over the pond – making it easier to collect the rainwater.

"Construction of the bridge allowed our students to work with a combination of new and recycled metals and taught them how to assess the overall size of a project," Ramos said. "Students learned how to take a set amount of steel and burn it down, cut it, or add an existing piece to meet the appropriate lengths for the project without discarding excess pieces and creating unnecessary waste."

In an effort to conserve even more water on center, the Albuquerque Job Corps Center is reducing the number of required sprinkler heads in its courtyard from 15 to 1. The center plans to track the amount of water this project and the xeriscape project will conserve per year.

To see photos of Albuquerque students at work on the center's ARRA-funded xeriscape project, click [here](#).

#### **Boston Region**

Cassadaga Job Corps Center  
Exeter Job Corps Center  
Glenmont Job Corps Center  
Grafton Job Corps Center  
Hartford Job Corps Center  
Iroquois Job Corps Center  
New Haven Job Corps Center  
Northlands Job Corps Center  
Penobscot Job Corps Center  
Shriver Job Corps Center  
Westover Job Corps Center

#### **Philadelphia Region**

Blue Ridge Job Corps Center  
Charleston Job Corps Center  
Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center  
Keystone Job Corps Center  
Muhlenberg Job Corps Center  
Old Dominion Job Corps Center  
Philadelphia Job Corps Center  
Red Rock Job Corps Center  
Wilmington Job Corps Center  
Woodland Job Corps Center  
Woodstock Job Corps Center

#### **Atlanta Region**

Atlanta Job Corps Center  
Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Job Corps Center  
Brunswick Job Corps Center  
Finch-Henry Job Corps Center  
Gadsden Job Corps Center  
Gulfport Job Corps Center  
Homestead Job Corps Center  
Jacksonville Job Corps Center  
Mississippi Job Corps Center  
Montgomery Job Corps Center

#### **Dallas Region**

Albuquerque Job Corps Center  
Carville Job Corps Center  
David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center  
Guthrie Job Corps Center  
Kicking Horse Job Corps Center  
Laredo Job Corps Center  
Little Rock Job Corps Center  
North Texas Job Corps Center  
Quentin N. Burdick Job Corps Center  
Shreveport Job Corps Center  
Talking Leaves Job Corps Center  
Tulsa Job Corps Center

#### **Chicago Region**

Atterbury Job Corps Center  
Cincinnati Job Corps Center  
Cleveland Job Corps Center  
Denison Job Corps Center  
Flint Hills Job Corps Center  
Flint/Genesee Job Corps Center  
Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center  
Joliet Job Corps Center  
Paul Simon Chicago Job Corps Center  
St. Louis Job Corps Center

#### **San Francisco Region**

Cascades Job Corps Center  
Inland Empire Job Corps Center  
Long Beach Job Corps Center  
Los Angeles Job Corps Center  
Phoenix Job Corps Center  
San Diego Job Corps Center  
San Jose Job Corps Center

Administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, Job Corps is the nation's largest career technical training and education program for students ages 16 through 24. Job Corps is a U.S. Department of Labor Equal Opportunity Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD/TTY telephone number is (877) 889-5627.